

Columbia County Drainage Basin Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, May 8, 2008
Water Utility Administrative Building Conference Room
Evans, Georgia

Chairman Bo Slaughter called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Additional members present included: Jim Bartley, Ben Brandenburg, Greg Banford, John Graham, Phillip Green, and Mike Rorick.

Staff present: Bill Clayton, Margaret Doss and Jacques Palmer

Visitors present: ????

Agenda: Item added under New Business, 6a. Project update.

Motion Mr. Rorick, seconded Mr. Bartley to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion Carried.**

Motion Mr. Rorick, seconded Mr. Bartley to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2008, minutes. **Motion Carried.**

Mr. Bill Clayton, Director of the Water Utility addressed the Council and reiterated that the purpose of the Council is to assist the County in complying with the Public Education component of the County's MS4 NPDES Permit. There was discussion between attendees and the Director concerning the upcoming Wynngate Tributary projects and the Bettys Branch relief sewer project.

John Graham presented a synopsis of his contact with the school board about incorporating water quality issues into the curriculum (attached).

A discussion was had to determine what types of articles should be in the upcoming Enviro-Source Newsletter. It was decided that Mr. Green would write an article concerning BMPs and Mr. Graham would write an article about the effects of water pollution [Is this right; I didn't write down who we decided would write?]

Ms. Doss informed the Council that their recommendation about raising the stormwater fee had been forwarded to the Board of Commissioners. She also showed pictures of the work that had been done on Jones Creek at Furys Ferry Road by DOT.

The following synopsis of current stormwater projects was submitted to the Council:

Status of Current and Planned Stormwater Projects as of 5/8/08

Mullins Pond: 95% complete; should be finished in the next six weeks. All major construction is complete; contractor is working on punch list items.

Halifax Road Stream Bank Stabilization: Cranston Engineering is the design engineer for this project. The project design has been completed, and the appropriate permits applications have been approved by the State and the Corps of Engineers. The County is currently in the process of easement acquisition.

Wynngate Tributary: The Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued. It includes stream stabilization projects (#8, #9, #10, and #11), a velocity control project (#13), culvert replacement projects (#14 and #15), and a pond retrofit project (#16). The RFP requested that proposals include a price for each project. It has not yet been determined how many of the projects will be funded. The design and construction costs will have to be considered when determining how many projects can be

funded with the money that was allocated in the GO Bond. Proposals are due to Procurement by May 15.

Bettys Branch: The RFP has been issued. It includes the following projects from the JJ&G preliminary project list: #4, #5, #6, and #7. These projects will address stream bank restoration, stabilization, and velocity control. The RFP requested that proposals include a price for each project. It has not yet been determined how many of the projects will be funded. The design and construction costs will have to be considered when determining how many projects can be funded with the money that was allocated in the GO Bond. Proposals are due to Procurement by May 15.

Ridge Crossing Phase 2 Infrastructure Upgrade: W.R. Toole is the design engineer. The project design has been completed, and the appropriate permits applications have been approved by the State and the Corps of Engineers. The County is currently in the process of easement acquisition.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Minutes attested by: _____
John Graham, Secretary

Minutes approved by Council on [date]

Chairman Slaughter

Date

Mrs. Karen Ribble, Programs Coordinator,
Columbia County Board of Education

Columbia County, through the offices of the Drainage Basin Advisory Council appointed by the Columbia County commissioners, has as part of its mission the education of the public regarding stormwater drainage basin issues. It is examining the suitability and practicality of raising public awareness and action through the Columbia County Board of Education. Through follow-up communications, we feel we can find means effective to these ends.

As Secretary of the Columbia County Drainage Advisory Council, as a retired educator, as well as practical experience as the coordinator of Columbia County Adopt-a-Stream and a facilitator for the Water Education for Teachers (WET) program, I believe I would be an appropriate contact for further investigations into this matter. On an attached page I present some preliminary thoughts that might help you to see my thinking on the subject and stimulate discussion.

Please feel free to communicate with me at your convenience. I am

Yours truly,

John Graham, Ph.D.
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EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES RELATING TO STORMWATER DRAINAGE

1. Awareness via passive approach.

Example: The Georgia Adopt-a-Stream (AAS) video, lasting about 10½ minutes, entitled, “It All Begins with You”, could be presented to students in grades 7-12.

Example: Assign students to watch particular TV programs, read books, etc.

2. Awareness and motivation via event approach.

Example: Schedule a school fair that invites both county officials, volunteers, and the general public to become aware of county drainage basin challenges.

3. Awareness and Understanding via participation.

Example: Some elementary school students are contributing plastic bags that can be blended into enduring composition materials. Manufacturer expects to reward their efforts through construction of a campus bench made of the composition material. This activity is being promoted by Jenny Hinton of the Community and Leisure Services Division under Barry Smith as part of the Keep America Beautiful Program.

Example: Charles Phillips, Columbia County Extension Agent, is expected to see how his 4H program can serve as a vehicle for making students aware of stormwater drainage challenges..

Example: Following the presentation of a film like that of the Georgia Adopt-a-Stream, students could be expected to (a) discuss local problems and benefits of which they are aware; (2) prepared reports to demonstrate understanding and/or ways in which they could participate in their communities; (3) carry out a cleanup project on the school grounds; (4) make school ground observations and prepare a report to the staff regarding either commendations or recommendations for improvement; (5) with guidance, participate in off-campus programs (like AAS); (6) develop new community awareness/activity programs as school projects.

4. Visitation Approach.

Example: Columbia County employee visits classes with a set of principles or immediate problems to discuss, and to entertain questions regarding engineering, finances, public policies, legislation..

Example: Students schedule visit to particular sites where a Columbia County employee or volunteer directs attention to stormwater control technology.

Example: Visit various County centers or offices where activities relating to county drainage systems must be addressed, as part of vocational education but also citizen awareness and motivation to participate.

5. Indirect Approach: Teacher Education.

Example: Elements of the State’s Water Education for Teachers (WET) resource, including exercises and special resources, could be adopted.

Example: Other Fall in-service teacher education courses could be developed to show how concepts could be incorporated into science, environmental education, civic responsibility.